

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
January 31, 2005 7:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** William Sullivan, Chairman, Virginia Bridle-Russell,  
James Workman (7:30), Cliff Pratt, Rick Griffin  
James Barrington, Town Manager  
Karen Anderson, Administrative Assistant

**I. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Selectman Rick Griffin led the audience in the salute to the flag.

**II. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Pratt noted that Hampton has a big weekend coming up; the Deliberative Session will be held all day on Saturday followed by the Penguin Plunge on Sunday at Noon and the Super Bowl at 6:00 PM.

Mr. Sullivan noted the importance of the Deliberative Session as well as the voting in March and encouraged all to attend.

**III. APPOINTMENTS**

1. Attorney Steve Ells, Mr. Dana Anderson, Re: Curb Cuts at 94 Ashworth Avenue

Attorney Steve Ells, representing Four Brothers Plus One, Dana Anderson, Property Manager for Royal Properties and Kathy Dirks, Hampton Postmaster were present. Attorney Ells explained that Four Brothers Plus One are asking for some relief on the placement of a sidewalk in front of Royal Market. The sidewalk will limit the live parking for deliveries and for the post office. Royal Market, with the post office provides a valuable resource to residents of the beach year-round. Attorney Ells said that many residents have requested relief from the curb cuts and the Board has been reluctant to make exceptions for individuals and he agrees with the Board in most cases. Attorney Ells said that granting this relief would not set a precedent because this is a unique situation, it is the only Federal facility at Hampton Beach and only post office. It is a busy location and eliminating the live parking will create additional traffic concerns and make it less safe to utilize the post office.

Kathy Dirks, Postmaster said that the Post Office feels it is essential that they are able to deliver the mail to the P.O. Boxes at this location.

Mr. Sullivan asked if the sidewalk is eliminated in that area, would the pedestrian traffic have to walk out into the street to go around the vehicles. Attorney Ells said that it may be a good idea to have a curb stop or protective barrier for people to walk in front of the store.

Peter Howe, Faye, Spofford & Thorndike was present and pointed out that there is a N.H. state law that requires no parking 30' from the crosswalk and there has to be someplace for the pedestrians to go from the crosswalk. He said that they have looked at the fact that there is 7' in front of the building and a possibility of having a sidewalk easement in front of the store in order to provide a place for the pedestrians. They also looked at having a bump out at the corner as is being done on the lettered streets. He emphasized that the setbacks from the intersections are important. Attorney Ells said that the store/post office has been operating in this manner for several years and while he understands the state law he would be happy to work with the engineers and the state to find a solution that will satisfy them, if they have the support of the Board of Selectmen. He added that the point of redeveloping the beach is to benefit the beach and the public and this seems to be almost a public accommodation with the post office.

Mr. Sullivan asked if the post office has a contract with the store and if so how long is it for. Postmaster Dirks said they have a five-year contract that has been renewed on a regular basis for several years and it has been very helpful to the residents and the postal service to have this location.

2. Moderator Robert Casassa/Cable Advisory Committee Re: Deliberative Session

Moderator Casassa said that he would like the cooperation of all concerned to have the best possible broadcast of the Deliberative Session, understanding that many residents do not attend the meeting and will see it on Channel 22. Mr. Brad Jett, representing the Cable Committee explained that one of the criticisms they hear, year after year is that the first sentence a speaker makes is cut off. The only microphones that are left on live at all times are the Moderator's and the one on the podium. The challenge is the microphones on the head table and seeing which microphone needs to be activated. Mr. Jett said that if the speaker waits to be recognized the cable crew will have the time to activate that microphone.

Mr. Jett said that it would be very helpful for the Cable Committee to have the Board of Selectmen at the auditorium on Friday evening to confirm seating locations and connections. Mr. Sullivan said that a seating plan will be provided in advance as well as the list of who will be speaking on the various articles. Moderator Casassa said that this first session is to debate and possibly amend the articles on the warrant. From his perspective there is no need to have a vote to get the articles on the ballot, the first motion will be to commence discussion of the article followed by any motions to amend the article. In the past time has not been spent on the Planning Board articles, but he believes it is important to discuss the planning board articles and learn what the articles mean so he will be allowing discussion on those.

Moderator Casassa said that he has not found any statutory authority to add the tag line recommended or not recommended by the deliberative session to the articles and after talking with other Moderators it is his decision not to allow that wording.

Mr. Pratt asked Mr. Jett if the microphones can be manually turned on by the speaker. Mr. Jett said that he does not want to allow that for fear that there would be more problems then there currently are. Mrs. Bridle-Russell said that she did not know the Board was going to meet on Friday night and has made other plans. Mr. Sullivan told the Moderator that some of the most enjoyable town meetings he attended was when his father was the moderator and he was confident that he will do just as well.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**Town Manager's ReportHurd Farm

Mr. Barrington reported that he had a lengthy conference call on Wednesday with the Trust for Public Land, the Rockingham County Conservation District, LCHIP, and the attorney for the Hurd family, to discuss legal documents for the portion of the easement that will be governed by the LCHIP program. A number of modifications and technical corrections were discussed that the attorneys are working to resolve. A follow-up phone call or meeting based on an updated draft will be held in the near future.

Police Facility

Chief Wrenn and the Town Manager met with Kaestle Boos Architects and Whitcher Builders last week to review progress on the final punch list items related to the new police station.

Web site video/Sponsorship

Mr. Barrington told the Board that he has included information in their packets about a proposal to prepare a streaming video about Hampton for our website at no cost to the Town. The "catch" is that they want to be able to get "sponsorships" that would include recognition for that sponsor on banners around town that would otherwise be to our design. This would be for a three-year commitment, but would include new banners each year for the three years. After asking Building Inspector Kevin Schultz to review the proposal for possible conflicts with our sign ordinance, he reports that the banners as proposed are permissible. However, the "advertising" aspect of them is a precedent that the Board should consider carefully if there is interest in going further.

Demolition of Police Building

Plans for the demolition of the old police station are progressing. The town has contracted with Kidder Construction. Mr. Hangen has been coordinating utility disconnections and salvage of some of the more worthwhile attachments. Currently, barring weather or delays, it is expected that the hazardous materials people will be on site around February 3, with the demolition crew mobilizing around February 7. Once the demolition crew is on site, the work should be completed in approximately 2 weeks. This is being funded from the residual of the construction bonds left after completion of the contract.

Arbitration

Mr. Barrington reported that the town has received a notice of a Demand for Arbitration on the police union issue that the Board recently decided. Attorney Bailey has received the original and is following up on the necessary paperwork.

Curb Cut Appeal

Mr. Barrington noted that the Board received a letter from Attorney Al Casassa, representing Diana LaMontagne, on the 15 P Street curb cut issue. That has been passed along to Town Attorney Gearreald.

Regional Dinners

NHMA will be holding their annual regional dinners. Once again, the topic of primary discussion will be school funding. The closest meeting will be at the Inn of Hampton on Thursday, February 24, beginning at 5:30 p.m., with dinner at 6:15 and the program at approximately 7:00.

Questions for the Manager

Mrs. Bridle asked if the local link streaming video has been sent to any other communities. Mr. Barrington said that they are doing business in Rochester, Newmarket and Berlin.

Mr. Pratt asked if the Hurd Farm is still on schedule to close in February. Mr. Barrington said that it was.

Mr. Pratt said that he is not interested in the internet video.

Mr. Workman said he is not in favor of the internet project at this time.

Mr. Sullivan asked where the debris from the police station is going. Mr. Barrington said that Kidder is responsible for the disposal.

Mr. Griffin said that he had several people call him regarding the fire hydrants near St. Magnus that have not been shoveled out. Mr. Sullivan said that if it is a red hydrant it is private and the condo property is responsible to shovel it out. If it is yellow the town is responsible to shovel it out.

Mr. Griffin told the Manager that he had received a call from a resident concerned with the sidewalk plow and damage that has been done to her property. Mr. Barrington will be meeting with the resident on Tuesday.

Mrs. Bridle asked if the Board has sent the residents on N Street a letter regarding the decision on the appeal of the curb cut. Mr. Barrington said that his recollection was that the Board of Selectmen told the residents that if the Board changes their mind, they would inform them. Mr. Workman said that the Board of Selectmen should send a letter saying that they have not changed their mind.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**Deliberative Session

Mr. Pratt said that he would like to discuss how important Deliberative Session is this year. He said that there has been a lot of talk about default budgets and if residents are interested in town government they should attend the session to understand the importance of the articles and passing the budget.

Mr. Sullivan said that it is an educational process to know what is on the ballot and gives residents an opportunity to take part in the process. Mrs. Bridle emphasized that the budget is now in the hands of the people and they have the opportunity to make changes and should come and share their thoughts. Mr. Pratt in talking about the budget, said it is important for people to understand the role that the State has; as long as there is a State property tax and a State budget deficit, the taxes will probably go up. The problem is not in the local government, it is more at the State level.

Mr. Sullivan said that Mr. Barrington gave the Board of Selectmen a copy of an article that was in the Boston Globe regarding Fire Department response times. Under New Hampshire, Hampton has a 98% on-time response rate for responding within 6 minutes to fire emergencies during 1996 to 2006. It is #1 in the State of New Hampshire. Mr. Sullivan said that the primary reason for this percentage is that the Town staffs two fire stations that can cover the community.

#### **VI. MINUTES**

The minutes of January 24, 2005 were accepted as written.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Pratt MOTIONED** that the meeting be adjourned. (7:58 PM)

**Mr. Griffin SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

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**Chairman**